

Message Text

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61-S
ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0795

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
SUBJECT: SPRING NATO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY AS APPROPRIATE

REF: (A) USNATO 0748; (B) STATE 29478 (NOTAL)

1. AT FEBRUARY 13 NAC MEETING, SYG LUNS SUGGESTED 22-23 MAY AS POSSIBLE DATE FOR DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING AND 29-30 MAY OR 9-10 JUNE FOR NACE MINISTERIAL. PERMREPS COMMENTED ON ACCEPTABILITY OF THESE DATES AND NUMBER OF OTHER ALTERNATIVES WHICH LUNS SUGGESTED DURING DISCUSSION. ALL PROPOSALS FOR HOLDING NAC IN JUNE RAISED MAJOR OBJECTIONS BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING CONFLICTS OR OTHER COMMITMENTS, INCLUDING INABILITY OF EC-9 FOREIGN MINISTERS TO ATTEND JUNE 9-10. AMBASSADOR BRUCE MADE CLEAR HE WAS NOT YET IN POSITION TO ACCEPT ANY OF THE DATES PROPOSED. ERALP (TURKEY) AND SVART (DENMARK) ALSO RESERVED POSITIONS OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

2. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) CONFIRMED WILLINGNESS OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO HOST MEETINGS AND APPEALED FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE DECISION ON DATE.

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3. LUNS CONCLUDED BY PROPOSING 22-23 MAY FOR DPC, 29-30 MAY FOR NAC, AND JUNE 16-17 FOR NPG. HE SAID THESE DATES APPEARED ONLY ONES ACCEPTABLE TO THE MAJORITY. LUNES EMPHASIZED NEED FOR EARLY AGREEMENT.

4. COMMENT: BELGIANS WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY AGREED TO HOST SPRING MEETING OF NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS WHEN EVERY OTHER ALLIED GOVERNMENT DEFAULTED NOW FIND THEMSELVES IN AWKWARD POSITION OF BEING UNABLE TO COMMENCE PLANNING FOR EITHER DPC MINISTERIAL OR NAC MINISTERIAL BECAUSE NO DATES ARE FIXED. I UNDERSTAND DIFFICULTY IN FIXING FIRM DATE FOR NAAC MINISTERIAL IN LIGHT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MIDDLE EAST TRAVEL AND HIS FULL NEGOTIATING SCHEDULE; AND I BELIEVE SENIOR BELGIANS DO, TOO. HOWEVER, BEFORE WEEK'S END I SHOULD LIKE TO BE AUTHORIZED TO AGREE, ON SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S BEHALF, TO MAY 22-23 DATES FOR DPC MINISTERIAL AND TO JUNE 16-17 DATES FOR NPG MINISTERIAL. IN EVENT THESE DATES DO NOT MESH WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S PLANS, PLEASE PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS THAT I CAN PUT FORWARD BEFORE TRAVEL PLANS OF OTHER ALLIED DEFENSE MINISTERS JELL.
BRUCE

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